



Citywide Council On High Schools

Citywide Council on High Schools 45-18 Court Square, 2nd Floor Long Island City, NY 11101
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Calendar Meeting Wednesday, March 9, 2016

ATTENDANCE

Brooklyn Representative	Mohammad Akram	Present
Brooklyn Representative	Marianne Russo	ABSENT-Excused
Bronx Representative	Edward Afuakwah	Present
Bronx Representative	Constance Asiedu	Present
Manhattan Representative	Monica Bajraktarevic	Present
Manhattan Representative	Michael Kraft	Present
Queens Representative	Mona-Lisa Chandler	Present
Queens Representative	Michelle Gebrail	ABSENT-Excused
Staten Island Representative	Robin Allen	ABSENT-Excused
Staten Island Representative	Miguel Rodriguez	Present
Public Advocate Appointee	Lisa Lewis	ABSENT
CCSE Appointee	Neyda Franco	Present
CCELL Appointee	<i>Vacant</i>	
Student Representative	Kara Gurl	ABSENT
Superintendent Liaison Substitute	Karen Watts Janice Ross	ABSENT-Excused Present

In Attendance

We have a quorum. Marianne Russo was absent work related reasons, excused absence. Robin Allen was sick, excused absence. Michelle Gebrail excused absence and Lisa Lewis was unexcused absence. Janice Ross substituted for Superintendent Liaison Karen Watts.

CALENDAR MEETING

Call to order by CCSE Appointee Ms. Franco at 6:16 pm. Attendance and roll call was taken.

Presenters:

Janice Ross: Principal Leadership Facilitator (PLF) Office of Superintendent Watts
Comfort Itoka: Director of Operations

Presenting on Fair Student Funding FY17 Budget see Power Point.

The total Fair Student Funding FY17 Budget is \$29.2 billion, but after the Pension & Debt Service Cost of \$6.3 billion there is the remaining DOE Budget of \$22.9 billion. The DOE spends \$11.7 billion on educational services for Districts 1-32 and Districts: 75 / 79 / 88. \$9.5 billion goes to Non-Controllable such as personal related costs of: pensions, welfare, and unemployment. \$3.3 billion cost was for P-K contracts from Charter and non-public schools. The central school support cost of \$3.2 billion is for: transportation / food / facilities / electrical / custodians.

The P-K for All program costs \$800 million. \$700 million is spent on central offices, field support offices and support for the Superintendents.

This year the DOE will receive \$2 billion less than the CFE-mandated level from the State. An anticipated increase in Fair Student Funding from the State will increase it from 82% to 87% for all schools, impacting over 650 schools. The 2016-17 Proposed Budget Weights are based on the October 31st student registration.

Questions asked by the council and public:

- What is SIFE?

Ms. Itoka: SIFE is “Students Interrupted Formal Education” and it’s immigrant students where English is not their 1st language or no English at all.

- Why are weights different at Specialized HS like Brooklyn Technical HS?

Ms. Itoka: The principal of that school has made us aware of this and that is currently under discussion.

- As a parent of a Midwood HS student, for the past 2 years he has approached the board to give Midwood HS portfolio funding as compared to the Specialized HS.

Ms. Itoka: That’s an excellent question please email me your question to: Budget@schools.nyc.gov

- As a parent of 2 teens that go to NYC HS why isn’t their school weighted, so that they can receive enrichment when the needs are the same?

Ms. Itoka: That’s an excellent question, please submit your question.

- How was the formula developed, and why was it never revised?

Ms. Itoka: In 2008 the new formula was based on a panel of principals and the needs of the students. The state underfunded the city due to poor economy under previous years. But since then they use the same excuse yearly.

- How are ICT classes funded? Is it funded under general education students or special education students?

Ms. Itoka: The general education students are funded as such and special education students are also funded as such.

- Who makes the decision at DOE to distribute the academic funding for portfolio schools?

Ms. Itoka: The DOE’s CFO Raymond Orlando makes the decision.

Presenters:

CCHS quarterly meeting with the High School President’s Council Presidents

In attendance:

Manhattan HS President’s Council President: Sonia Martinez-Quinones

Brooklyn HS President’s Council President: Aquila Jordan

Staten Island Federation President: Miguel Rodriguez
Bronx HS President's Council President: No Show
Queens HS President's Council President: No Show

Ms. Jordan: The last time she was at CCHS meeting on 12-9-15, she had issues with compliance at her school. But since then Lisa Pineda went to her school along with the Parent Coordinator and had SLT and Title 1 training with the parents and staff. Ms. Pineda regularly visits her school to resolve any issues they might have. There were 32 parent Coordinators whom Superintendent Donald Conyers invited to attend PD and SLT training at her school. She is very happy with all the results at her school. Ms. Jordan wants to address that the PTA is not happy with the closing of Foundations HS. They want to know why the DOE did not reach out to the parents before closing the HS? What right do parents have before a school is scheduled for closing? If this is an enrollment issue, why was it never addressed prior to closing?

Response: Many HSs do not have a Parent Coordinator, and sometimes the principal sends a school aid in place of a PC. They are out of compliance. There are some principals that create their own PTA parents. When she checked the PTA personnel, she came across 5 schools that do not have a PTA and did not provide the certification forms. At the DLT meetings, she has attended, mostly Middle School is represented and not HS. But Mr. Hagin from Superintendent Watt's office does come out at these DLT meetings to support the HS. Also Mr. Moses goes to a few DLT meetings. More workshops are needed for the parents in the beginning of the school year, not in March.

The parents would like only one phase of the merging at Medgar Evers HS, instead of two. It is too disruptive for the students to do it two times. Ms. Jordan feels overall the DOE needs to have more transparency towards the parents.

Ms. Martinez-Quinones: There is a lack of parent participation from the parents from Districts: 1-6 due to the lack of access to parent contact information. She has tried to call some PTA members, but finds it very hard to reach them. She needs the information of the PTA Presidents from District: 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 and does not know whom to contact to get that information. The Urban Assembly Maker HS executive board is trying to get rid of the treasurer, since she is bullying the executive board in public, and not performing her job as treasurer.

Ms. Asiedu: If the treasurer is in non-compliance, you can remove her by sending her a letter. It is in the A660 Chancellor's Regulation about the removal of an officer. It supersedes the Bylaws of the councils.

Mr. Rodriguez: There are 2 HSs in SI that are co-located schools, and one of them is a D75 School. The students at the D75 School cannot attend the afterschool's program with the other school due to the different bell schedule. The two schools need to create a bell schedule where the school day ends at the same time.

Staten Island needs to have a long term detention center for students. Currently they have to go to Manhattan, but it is a 2 hour commute one way. They have a site for 90 days detention. On March 21st they will have a meeting with all the HS principals from all 13 HSs including D75 and Infinity Schools to discuss this issue.

Comments from the CCHS members:

Ms. Asiedu: At the recent Foundations HS Hearing only the principal spoke. It is co-located with a D75 School and Charter School Success Academy. The DOE recently spent 1.1million in renovating Foundations HS's Lab and both the HS and public middle school are closing. There is great inequality when the Charter school's part of the building is new, and beautiful, yet the 2 public schools are old

and run down. Also 25 teachers from the Charter are given private parking while only a few parking spots are offered to the 2 public schools. The DOE announced that any HS with less than 323 student population is considered unsustainable, and would soon close. Currently we have 14 HSs with less than 323 students.

Ms. Franco: The students of these HSs that would be closing have to reapply to another HS. There might be a lack of seats for them at another school. The situation with the lack of PTA is widespread in other boroughs too. At these schools, the principal needs the certification from PTA/SLT for Title 1 and CEP's. Who is signing the certifications in these schools, and is the principals are held accountable? The PTA elections should all be finished in June 30th, and not in October. The school aid cannot represent the PA/PTA since it is illegal. On the school's website the PA board needs updating. The information is very old.

Mr. Kraft: He sees the same things happening in Manhattan. Where's FACE in this? We need to put a recommendation together to correct these problems.

Mr. Rodriguez: The Family District Coordinator receives the PA/PTA certification forms and he has a complete list. They can reach them for PA/PTA contact information.

Announcements

Ms. Asiedu announced the following, see the flyers:

- HS Admissions 2016 Round 2 Fair on March 12/13 from 11am-2pm at Martin Luther King Jr. Campus in Manhattan.
- Congratulations to Nan Mead, who is elected to the Board of Regents starting April 1st to complete the recent 5 year term.
- Join the Young Innovators Squad for a special *Hack the Web event!* You'll have the opportunity to design and build your own personal website! On: March 26, 2016 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- Joint Science and Technology Institute for Students: In summer 2016, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency will host three Joint Science and Technology Institutes in Edgewood, Maryland.
- CODE NOW Free: Application deadline: March 16/ Workshop dates: April 2, 3, and 16.
- Join the Members of CEC 31 & S.I. Federation of PTAs for an information session on NYS Tests & the Parental Right to Opt-Out and Refuse Testing Monday, March 21, 2016 7pm – 8:30pm Michael J Petrides Complex Bldg. A Room 118 on Staten Island.

Public Comment

Mr. Lola talked about a foreign student exchange program from the previous meeting. He spoke with Will Mark from Superintendent Marisol Bradbury's office. He said that in the "Homestead Program," you don't need a 3rd party vendor. But the Study abroad program cost about two times as much. He said that Homestays (staying at another student's home) are no longer allowed.

Superintendent Liaison's Report

Superintendent Karen Watts was absent due to work.

Member's Report

Ms. Chandler as co-chair of the Capital Plan Committee reported that they have narrowed down the submission, and have made minor changes for the final submission. The submission will be sent out to SCA by email and a copy will be emailed to members. She attended the following:

- HS subcommittee meeting
- C27 meeting
- DLT 29/ CEC29 meeting
- In District 29, had a walk through in a building co-located a Charter school with a Public school and reported on it
- District 27 has 3 openings on the board

Mr. Kraft as co-chair of the Communications Committee reported that they will keep the CCHS mission statement from previous handout with the addition of new members' names. The committee produced 3 letters on 3 topics for SCA. They will send SCA the updated letters. They would like members come up with more ideas for resolutions. They would like 3 resolutions created under the topics:

- Intervention For All
- Information For All
- Literacy For All

The members went over the eChalk website contract. They would like to get the price down and possibly have the company redesign the website without additional cost.

The rest of the members do not have a report.

Ms. Asiedu announced that the Chancellor would like an agenda before presenting at a CCHS meeting. She would like the members' questions sent to her before the meeting, and she would like the transfer schools personnel to present at the next CCHS meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Bajraktarevic gave a Treasurer's report, see the attachment.

President's Report

Ms. Asiedu tabled her report due to the lack of time.

Approval of the Minutes

Ms. Franco moved to pass the November 11, 2015 meeting Calendar Minutes with any changes to be sent in.

Mr. Rodriguez 2nd the motion. **8 in favor.** Motion passed unanimously.

Yes	Afuakwah, Akram, Asiedu, Bajraktarevic, Chandler, Franco, Kraft, Rodriguez
No	None
Abstained	None

Approval of the Minutes

Ms. Franco moved to pass the November 11, 2015 meeting Business Minutes with any changes to be sent in.

Mr. Rodriguez 2nd the motion. **8 in favor.** Motion passed unanimously.

Yes	Afuakwah, Akram, Asiedu, Bajraktarevic, Chandler, Franco, Kraft, Rodriguez
No	None
Abstained	None

Approval of the Minutes

Ms. Franco moved to pass the December 9, 2015 meeting Calendar Minutes with any changes to be sent in.

Mr. Rodriguez 2nd the motion. **8 in favor.** Motion passed unanimously.

Yes	Afuakwah, Akram, Asiedu, Bajraktarevic, Chandler, Franco, Kraft, Rodriguez
No	None
Abstained	None

Approval of the Minutes

Ms. Chandler moved to accept the minutes for:

- December 9, 2015 meeting Calendar/Business Minutes
- January 13, 2016 meeting Calendar/Business Minutes
- February 10, 2016 meeting Calendar/Business Minutes

Any changes will be emailed.

Mr. Rodriguez 2nd the motion. **7 in favor. 1 Pass.** Motion passed.

Yes	Akram, Asiedu, Bajraktarevic, Chandler, Franco, Kraft, Rodriguez
No	None
Pass	Afuakwah

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

Calendar meeting ended at 9:04PM.

No Business Meeting

There was no Business Meeting due to the lack of time.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. Mei Chan
Administrative Assistant

Revision made by Recording Secretary Lisa Lewis and President:

Approved by Council vote on June 8, 2016.